

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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R 220759Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6044

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8350

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR US TW CH

SUBJ: HONG KONG PRC MEDIA ON SOVIET-TAIWAN TIES

SUMMARY: THE HONG KONG PRC-OWNED PRESS HAS PROMPTLY PICKED UP AND COMMENTED ON AN AP DISPATCH REPORTED GRC HIGH-LEVEL CONSIDERATION OF TRADE LINKS WITH THE SOVIET BLOC. REGISTERING DISAPPROVAL OF ANY SUCH PLANS, THE COMMENTARY PROVIDES THE VEILED THREAT THAT THE GRC MUST BE "IMPATIENT WITH LIFE" IF IT IS CONTEMPLATING THE SOVIET OPTION. END SUMMARY

1. THE LOCAL PRC-OWNED PRESS HAS BEEN QUICK TO NOTE A NEWS REPORT OF A HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE OF SENIOR KMT PARTY AND MILITARY OFFICIALS IN TAIWAN TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRADE LINKS WITH THE SOVIET BLOC. THE AP REPORT, CARRIED IN THE JULY 21 SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, WAS PICKED UP THE NEXT DAY BY THE PRC -OWNED TA KUNG PAO, WHICH ALSO HAD

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A SEPARATE COMMENTARY ON THE REPORT.

2. THE COMMENTARY, ASSERTING THAT FOR THE "SAKE OF APPEARANCES SOME WOULD ENTER HELL AND EMBRACE THE DEVIL", INDICATED AGREEMENT WITH THE AP ANALYSIS THAT SUCH A TAIWAN MOVE WOULD BE A TRIAL BALLOON TO TEST PUBLIC REACTION. HOWEVER, THE COMMENTARY ALINKED THIS "NEW SITUATION " WITH REPORTED VISITS OF SOVIET AGENT VICTOR LOUIS TO TAIWAN AND THE SOVIETS' ACTIVITIES IN PEDDLING THEIR ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY SCHEME, AS WELL AS WITH RECENT UNSPECIFIED DEVELOPMENT WHICH HAVE BEEN UNFAVORABLE POLITICALLY, DIPLOMATICALLY, AND ECONOMICALLY TO TAIWAN.

3. THE COMMENTARY SAW A CONNECTION BETWEEN ANY GRC CONSIDERATION OF A SOVIET OPTION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CLOSE CHIANG CHING -KUO RELATIONSHIP WITH FONMIN CHOW SHU-KAI. IT NOTED THAT CHOW IS THE ALLEGED ARCHITECT OF THIS POLICY AND THAT, ALTHOUGH UNDER THE CHIANG KAI-SHEK GOVERNMENT CHOW WAS CRITICISED AND DISMISSED FROM OFFICE, HIS RESPONSIBILITIES NOW SEEM TO BE GREATER THAN THE PRESENT FOREIGN MINISTER'S. CLEARLY REGISTERING DISAPPROVAL, THE ARTICLE MOCKINGLY CONCLUDES THAT THE GRC IS PLAYING A JOKE ON ITSELF THEN, ON A MORE SERIOUS NOTE, ADDS THAT IT SUGGESTS THAT THE GRC MUST BE "IMPATIENT WITH LIFE".

4. ALTHOUGH THE AP ARTICLE NOTES THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS CALLED TO DISCUSS MOVES AGAINST POSSIBLE PRC MILITARY ACTION TOWARD TAIWAN AND CONCERN OVER WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS AND COMMITMENTS FROM TAIWAN, COMMENTARY IN THE PRC PRESS AVOIDS ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN CLOSER GRC-SOVIET TIES AND SINO-US RELATIONS. THE OTHER MORNING PRC-PWNED PAPER, WEN WEI PAO, ALSO CARRIED LENGTHY EXCERPTS FROM THE AP DISPATCH AND IGNORED ANY IMPLICATION THAT THE TAIWAN MOVES WERE RELATED TO CLOSER TIES BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND PEKING.

5. BEGIN XGDS-2 THE AP STORY IS VERY SIMILAR TO ONE WHICH THE JAPANESE BROUGHT TO US SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. THE JAPANESE VERSION HAD VICTOR LOUIS VISITING TAIPEI IN DECEMBER 1974 AND PREDICTED CLOSER GRC-USSR TIES AS THE CONFIDENTIAL

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RESULT OF CHOU SHU-KAI'S INFLUENCE AND ALSO THE INFLUENCE OF VICE FONMIN FRED CHIEN. END XGDS-2
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